

REMARKS

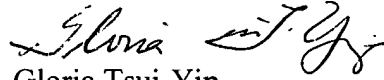
As required by the Examiner, Applicants provisional elect to proceed with the substance of Species 3, drawn to “anti-microbial drug eluting factors,” for prosecution. Applicants believe that an allowable generic claim is present in the application to cover at least Species 14, 15, 16 and 17 and all the substances.

As requested by the Examiner, support in the original specification for Claims 38-42 are provided in the table below:

<u>Claim(s)</u>	<u>Support</u>
38 & 39	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “In certain situations of trauma and disease additional stabilization is required and a resorbable biocompatible photo-initiated polymer rod or plate and screws may be utilized and to be attached to the vertebrae involved as well as healthy vertebrae above and below the damaged site. Guide plates are provided for drilling holes to affix the plate and or rod to the vertebrae with the necessary screws. In extreme cases the additional stabilization may employ currently available rigid devices for such purposes.” Specification p.8, lines 18 – 23.• “additional stabilization” in the specification is the “supplemental support” in the claims.• Claim 11 - The artificial disc as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said at least one temporarily stabilizing means is made of a substantially rigid bio-compatible and bio-resorbable material.• Claim 14 - The artificial disc as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said supplemental support comprises photo-initiated polymer rod and screws.• Claim 15 - The artificial disc as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said supplemental support comprises photo-initiated polymer plate and screws.
40 & 41	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fig. 7• Fig. 9• Claim 21 - The artificial disc as set forth in Claim 1 comprising two or more pair of plate members, at least one plate member from each set are interconnected and each pair of plate members are independently and flexibly supported by each of said flexible supporting means.
42	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Furthermore, the bio-compatible or bio-resorbable material may also be colored in the uncured state and turn clear upon curing to aid in assuring visually that the polymer has been completely cured, such as photo-initiator HU-470 available from Spectra Inc.” Specification p.17, lines 6-9.

In view of the above, it is believed that examination of Group I and Species 3 is appropriate at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gloria Tsui-Yip".

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